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Reminiscences

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Reminiscences about

Abraham Lincoln

Newspaper clippings, accounts, and memories of those whose lives included an encounter with the 16th President of the United States

Surnames beginning with

Chi-Cl

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

71.2009.085.02608

CHILD, MRS. JOHN L.

L.-D. Debates

MEMORIES OF LINCOLN'S DAY

1920

Told by One Who Was Acquainted With the Great Emancipator and His Opponent, Douglas.

MRS. JOHN LYMAN CHILD, who is eighty-two years old, knew Lincoln personally, heard Lincoln and Douglas debate, has a store of interesting incidents connected with her father-in-law, an ardent Abolitionist, as well as tales of her father, who served as adjutant-general of Illinois.

Mrs. Child's maiden name was Mary Ellen Anderson. She was born and reared near Springfield, lived in that locality for eighty years, and now resides in Chicago.

"Yes, I remember when Springfield was nothing but a mud-hole, when the horses were driven to the court house, unhitched, tied to the back of the wagon and fed there. I lived on a farm not far from town; we knew the people in town and went in to the political meetings. In those days, you know, two would talk together, each trying to get voters for his side. I heard Lincoln and Douglas stump. Folks said that Douglas was the smartest man but that Lincoln was the shrewdest. Once I heard Douglas say to Lincoln: 'You, sir, used to sell whisky!'*

"When Lincoln got up, this was his answer to that: 'Yes, I did. And while I officiated in one way, you, Douglas, did in another; you did the drinking.'

"Douglas was a drinker. They said he made the best speeches when he was under the influence. The day my father introduced him to a little boy who was for Douglas, though the boy's father was strong on the other side. I knew he had been drinking.

"This boy's father, Stephen Child—the boy had the same name—was known all around as an abolitionist. The boy, only ten years old, for some reason was not on that side. Once the father while at work in the field saw his team being driven by little Stephen out to the road as fast as they could go. He hollered for the boy to bring the horses back but he paid no attention. After awhile Mr. Child saw a gang of boys drive back to the house. They had a pole in their wagon. They took this out and pretty soon began trying to raise it, for a flag-pole, in front of the house. Mr. Child (by the way, he later became my father-in-law) went over and offered to help, although it was a hickory pole. But little Stephen said, 'No, this is a Democrat pole and no Abolitionist shall touch it!'

"Little Stephen had two cats that he called Douglas and Lincoln. He took fine care of Douglas but he used to beat Lincoln unmercifully. That was a long time ago, but he is still living and still remembers his cats.

"My father was a Democrat. We lived neighbor to the Childs, and one day father took little Stephen to a meeting where Douglas spoke. After the meeting father had the boy shake hands with Douglas, and he introduced him as a 'ten-year-old Democrat son of an Abolitionist.'

"My father-in-law was an awful strong Abolitionist. He sheltered colored people and helped show them the way north. He had a horse named Pomp. They said he would put a colored runaway on the horse, send it off and be pretty sure it would do what was expected of it; would run along steadily, then kick up its heels and throw off its load right at the door of another Abolitionist.

"My father-in-law used to hide the runaways in his cellar, which had no outside door, just a trap-door in the house. Once he had a lot of them there and searchers came along, suspecting him. Mr. Child told them they were welcome to search. They looked all around, but not in the right place. That night he loaded the colored people in the bottom of the wagon, piled on top bags of hay and started out for Salt Creek. On the trip at the side of the road he met a man who asked for a ride. Mr. Child raised his whip and told him to get out of the way, that he didn't want any one to ride and hurt his load. He got the people safely to Salt Creek, there in Logan county, then showed them the way north.

"Yes, I knew Lincoln. I knew Mary Todd, too, slightly. She was haughty. After their marriage it hurt her that Lincoln was so plain and dressed so plain; she wanted him to dress up. When I first knew him he liked to wear the linsey woolsey. He was a homely man but drew people to him. He was a great friend to the poor, made more over a ragged boy or girl than any other kind.

"Everyone around Springfield sorrowed when Lincoln was killed. I remember as though it was yesterday his body lying in state there in the state house. And I remember the day my husband and I went to pay our respects that there was the biggest fight on the streets of Springfield that I had ever seen. Colored people had flocked there from all sides, they were present in such numbers they more than filled the sidewalks. There really didn't seem to be any room for any of the white people that wanted to go to the state house. It was shouted that the colored people should go out into the road, not take all the sidewalks. A big fight followed, there was much noise and confusion. But the police finally stopped it. Lincoln lay in state a day and night, an army of people had opportunity to pass along as he lay there with the guards about him."

KATHERINE POPE.

*Liquid refreshments were sold in that general store in New Salem where Lincoln worked.

J WRIGHT

Child, Mrs. John Lyman

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(Copyright, 1920, Western Newspaper Union)

"Worried? If course I'm worried. I think I addressed my nice ten-cent valentine to teacher an' that bum comic to me best girl."

The Day Not What It Was.

The golden days when the maid proudly counted in numbers the trophies of St. Valentine and displayed them to her rivals are gone. If the twentieth century girl receives one reminder of the anniversary she thinks

...rus are preserved, but they are of relatively late date, and of no great historical value—which is no hindrance to the devotion of lovers, whose fealty is not always found on the rock of history or the solid tradition of absolute facts. Of the third St. Valentine, who suffered martyrdom in Africa with a number of companions, nothing further is known.

The popular customs connected with St. Valentine's day undoubtedly have their origin in the conventional belief generally received in England and France during the middle ages that on February 14 (i. e., half-way through the second month of the year), the birds begin to pair, which happens to be about the time that the young man's fancy and the young girl's fancy, too,

Childers, Stephen A.

Charleston, Ill.
L.-D. Debates

HE REMEMBERS SEEING ABRAHAM LINCOLN TWICE

Stephen A. Childers of Allenville Recalls Early Events In Life of Lincoln

Stephen A. Childers of Allenville was a caller at The News office on Saturday seeking the honor of being the oldest person in Illinois who heard Lincoln speak. says the Sullivan News. Mr. Childers is 85 years of age, having been born on March 7, 1847, in the vicinity of Lerna which for a time was the home of the Lincolns.

Mr. Childers has two distinct recollentions of Lincoln. The first was in 1858, when he attended the Lincoln-Douglas debate at Charleston. Before that time members of the Childers family were Whigs but after that strenuous campaign they joined the party of Lincoln and became his devoted followers.

Two years later after he had been elected president Lincoln paid a visit to the tomb of Thomas Lincoln. Several of his friends gathered there and asked him to make a talk. He said that he would not speak there at the cemetery and so a meeting was arranged for the home of his stepmother near-by. At the time Mr. Childers was in school and the teacher dismissed so that her pupils might hear Lincoln speak. Mr. Childers remembers distinctly that meeting. Lincoln's step-mother stayed either at the home of the Halls or the Johnsons, Mr. Childers is not quite sure which.

Mr. Childers's grandfather was a neighbor of the Lincolns, and the father and mother of Mr. Childers are buried within a few feet of the Lincoln monument in Gordon cemetery about four miles from Lerna. The children of the neighborhood always called Abraham Lincoln's stepmother, "Granny" Lincoln. Thomas Lincoln passed away in 1852 and his wife passd away in 1869.

Mr. Childers was born within a mile and a half of the Lincoln homestead. He served in Company I of the 135th infantry during the Civil war. He has always been a member of the Grand Army. The Trilla post of which he was a member at one time originally had about sixty members and he is now the only surviving member.

Mr. Childers spent Thursday of last week in the old Lincoln neighborhood visiting relatives and friends.

In speaking of the Douglas-Lincoln campaign Mr. Childers says that Douglas used a glee club to help entertain the crowd while Lincoln used only his straightforward speaking. The great issue in the 1860 campaign was the slavery question and Mr. Childers says that he remembers the chorus of a song sung in that campaign, his cousin having taught him the same:

"There is Old Lovejoy and Cassius M. Clay,
One steals a nigger while the other hides away,
Lovejoy is a nigger thief, deny it if you dare,
We will bring up the records and prove it to you there."

Childs, Mrs. Amanda

Recalls Lincoln's Visit To Macoupin

Amanda Childs, Palmyra, 89 Years Old.

1946

Palmyra, March 7.—Mrs. Amanda Childs celebrates her eighty-ninth birthday here today. She was born March 7, 1856, in Girard where she spent her early years.

She vividly recalls Lincoln's first race for president and saw him when he in company with a number of other candidates stopped in Girard during the campaign. She was the daughter of the late Dr. and Mrs. W. A. Hulse, and is the last surviving member of the family of several children.

In September, 1875, she married Thomas Childs, coming to Palmyra as a bride, and has continued to reside here. She with her husband were in the restaurant business as long as their health permitted. Since the death of her husband in 1936, she has resided alone.

CHILDS, MRS. AMANDA

Recalls Lincoln's Trip In Macoupin

Palmyra Woman Saw First Campaign.

Palmyra, March 9.—Mrs. Amanda Childs observed her eighty-sixth birthday anniversary at her home here Tuesday. A number of friends

MRS. AMANDA CHILDS.

called upon her during the day.

Mrs. Childs enjoys excellent health and has resided alone since the death of her husband, two years ago.

Mrs. Childs before her marriage was Miss Amanda Hulse. Her early life was spent in Girard. She recalls vividly Lincoln's first race for the presidency. Lincoln, in company of a member of the other candidates passed through Girard on a campaign trip. Mrs. Childs said Lincoln stepped from the train and took her small brother, Charles Hulse, on his knee. "Sonny, who are you going to vote for when you get big," he asked. Charles replied, "I'm going to vote for a Democrat."

Mrs. Childs came to Palmyra as a bride and this has been her home ever since.

She, with her husband, spent many years in the restaurant business.

Mrs. Childs is very active and attends all services of the Christian church.

She is the last surviving member of a family of several children.

TE JOURNAL, SPRINGFIELD, ILL., FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 1939

Chipman, Charles Curtis Lincoln helped Howe get interview with Treasurer

Childs, Mrs. Clara Danville, Ill. Lincoln-D. Debates

DESCRIBES HER THREE MEETINGS WITH LINCOLN

Chicago Woman Recalls His Visit to Her Home.

On this day, the 120th birthday anniversary of Abraham Lincoln, while the entire nation is honoring his memory, Mrs. Clara J. Childs of 5229 Cornell avenue, who saw him three times, recalls vividly her meetings with the martyred President. Mrs. Childs, who is 83 years old, distinctly remembers a visit Mr. Lincoln paid to Ward H. Lemon, who lived next door to her parents in Danville. Mrs. Childs' father, William N. Payne, was ill, and Mr. Lemon and Mr. Lincoln called to extend their sympathy. Later, when the two men were sitting under a tree on the lawn, Lincoln drew the 6 year old Clara Payne on to his lap.

"Homeliest Man She Ever Saw."

"I remember telling my sister I thought he was the homeliest man I ever saw, much uglier than our father," Mrs. Childs said yesterday.

Mrs. Childs next saw Lincoln in 1860 when he and Stephen A. Douglas were campaigning against each other for President.

"Mr. Lincoln again visited at the Lemon home while Mr. Douglas stayed with us," Mrs. Childs continued. "Although I did not speak with him personally I heard Lincoln's address made in the grove near Danville. The next and last time I saw him was the following year when he passed through Danville on his way to Washington to be inaugurated President of the United States."

Heard Gettysburg Address.

John A. Hood, 106 6th street, Wilmette, 87 years old, is believed to be the only person in or near Chicago who heard Lincoln deliver his famous Gettysburg address. Col. Hood was with the 51st Indiana infantry and was returning to his company after delivering a message to Washington, when he was told Lincoln was to speak at Gettysburg and he stopped there to hear him.

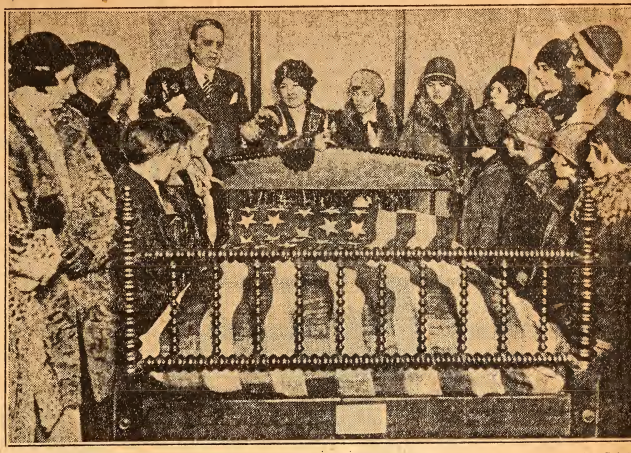
Col. Hood yesterday said that on seeing Lincoln ride up to the mound where he and Edward Everett were to speak, he though the President was the most awkward man on horseback whom he had ever seen.

Many Meetings Today.

Numerous celebrations, memorials, and displays will honor Lincoln today. The Chicago Historical society has arranged a display of Lincoln material telling the complete story of his life.

Movies at the Field museum will tell the story of Lincoln's life, and all children are invited to attend one of the two showings, which will be at 10 and 11 o'clock this morning. The Union League club also is holding a celebration for public school children

School Children Show Interest in Lincoln Relics



George W. Dixon, vice president of the Chicago Historical society, telling pupils of the Stick school, who are gathered around the bed on which Abraham Lincoln died, the story of his life and of assassination.

[TRIBUNE Photo.]

BISHOP HUGHES CITES LINCOLN'S SCHOLARSHIP

Speaks to Thousands at Springfield.

Springfield, Ill., Feb. 11.—[Special.]—Although Abraham Lincoln rose to the pinnacle of success without the help of high school or college training, he was the exception rather than the rule, Bishop Edwin H. Hughes of the Methodist Episcopal church, Chicago, told an audience of 5,000 at the State arsenal here tonight in an address on "Lincoln and Higher Education."

"Some people like to use the life of Lincoln as a bludgeon to pound over the heads of college presidents," he declared. "Lincoln was a great man, they say, Lincoln had no education, and therefore an education is folly. I dispute that. He was the best educated man of his time, because he got an education despite his environment."

Bishop Hughes was the principal speaker at a memorial service commemorating the 120th anniversary of Lincoln's birth, presided over by Gov. Louis L. Emmerson and attended by justices of the Supreme court and other state officials.

Mrs. Clara Childs, 83, 5227 Cornell avenue, who described her three meetings with Lincoln.

[TRIBUNE Photo.]

at 10 o'clock this morning at the Auditorium theater. The Austin High school girls' band will provide the music for this program and players from the New Trier High school will present Drinkwater's play, "Abraham Lincoln."

The General Henry Dearborn chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will stage their annual "white breakfast" at the Palmer house at 12:30 o'clock today, celebrating the double occasion of Lincoln's birthday and their own crystal anniversary.

Bishop Edwin Holt Hughes will address veterans of all wars at 2 o'clock this afternoon in the Memorial hall in the Chicago Public library and members of the G. A. R. will attend Lincoln services at 10 o'clock this morning at Park Manor Methodist church.

Tells of Walk for Book.

Several gray heads in the first rows, reserved for old persons who remember the Lincoln family, nodded affirmation as Bishop Hughes told how young Abraham walked ten miles and back again to borrow a grammar:

"And they say Lincoln had no book education," he said. "Show me a boy in Springfield today who is willing to walk twenty miles for a book and I'll show you a boy who is going to have an education whether he gets in college or not. When he was of college age, Lincoln was reading Shakespeare and Burns. And when he was elected President he was probably the best informed man on legal jurisprudence and the fundamentals of government of his age."

Gov. Emmerson declared that Springfield has a right to be forever proud that it sent Lincoln to be the leader in the dark days of the civil war. The preservation of his home, tomb, and other mementoes is a trust, he said, that both Springfield and the state of Illinois must faithfully keep.

Hundreds Visit Tomb.

The stream of visitors to Lincoln's tomb at Oak Ridge cemetery doubled in size today and preparations are made to receive hundreds more tomorrow. Five hundred members of Kansas City chapters of the Order of Demolay arrived on a special train to conduct exercises at the tomb tomorrow. Other groups will lay wreaths on top of those placed there by President Coolidge, Col. Charles A. Lindbergh, and other noted persons.

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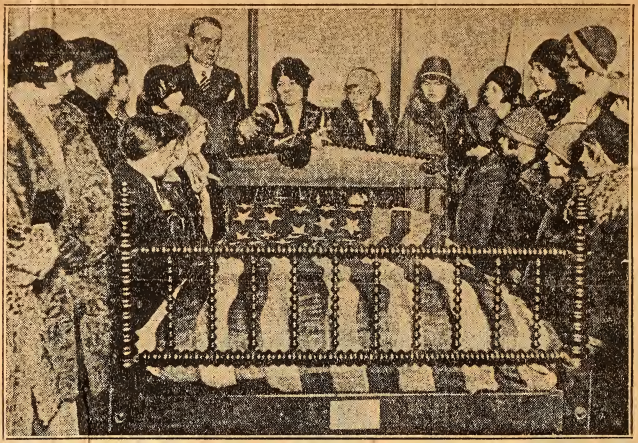

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[TRIBUNE Photo.]

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Chipman, Charles Curtis Lincoln helped Howe get interview with Treasurer White House

DOVER, N H, G. A. R. MAN TELLS A NEW STORY OF LINCOLN

President Took Postmaster of Connecticut Regiment Direct to U. S. Treasurer After Latter's Subordinate Had Refused to Admit Him

BOSTON GLOBE MON. FEB 13 1928

DOVER, N H, Feb 12—Charles Curtis Chipman of this city, a Grand Army man and a long-time member of Post 40 of Malden, Mass, told today a human interest story of Elias Howe, famous inventor of the sewing machine, and Abraham Lincoln, which he says he never saw in print. It deals with an incident of the closing

CHARLES CURTIS CHIPMAN

period of the Civil War, when Uncle Sam's paper money was of very little value and soldiers' pay was depreciated in proportion—when they were fortunate enough to have a payday.

There was much suffering among the soldiers and their families during the Winter of '64-5. That was when Elias Howe came into the picture and acted as daddy to the Connecticut regiment of which he and Chipman, the narrator of this incident, were members, the 17th Connecticut Infantry.

While in Winter quarters at Strafford Courthouse, Virginia, the men of the regiment were reduced virtually to pauperism. The Government had not paid them for months and they had only bare rations. Elias Howe, the wealthy sewing machine manufacturer, though once a poor boy, had enlisted as a private, but his superior officers had decided that he was too valuable a soldier to be allowed to carry a gun. They, accordingly, made him postmaster of the regiment. This brought him into touch with every man and he proved a "friend indeed" to many through his generosity in lending them money in advance of their pay. Howe received so many appeals for loans that he was forced to confine his lending to the married men only of the regiment, that they might send money home to ther families.

Started For Washington

"At last, conditions in the regiment became so grave," Mr Chipman said, "that Howe decided that something must be done at once for the relief of the soldiers. He made out the payroll of the regiment and took it to Washington, making the journey on horseback with a small detail as a guard. When he presented himself at the United States Treasury with his properly vouched regimental payroll and asked to see the Treasurer, he was ordered out with scant courtesy by a subordinate, who refused even to present his request to the Treasurer.

"'You won't let me see the United States Treasurer?' said Howe.

"'We don't know whether you're the man you say you are,' replied the functionary.

"'Well, you'll soon find out. I know somebody here in Washington who will identify me and vouch for my right to see the Treasurer.'

"Howe went directly to his old friend Lincoln at the White House and told him of the financial plight of his regiment. Lincoln was deeply moved by the recital and said: 'Come with me. I will see that you have the opportunity to lay this matter before the Treasurer.'

Howe Supplies Funds

"Arriving at the Treasury with his visitor, the President ordered the astonished subordinate who had shown Howe the outside door to show him at once into the Treasurer's private office. The result of the conference held there was, that Howe, in view of the fact that the Treasury was practically empty and unable at the time to pay the soldiers, offered to advance his own money to the Government to meet the regimental payroll. Government bonds were given Howe as security for the loan. The payroll money was then put up and given Howe to take back with him to the regiment. Lincoln provided a squadron of cavalry as escort to the paymaster back to Winter quarters. Howe was hailed with tumultuous manifestations of joy by his comrades on his arrival with their long-awaited wages."

Mr Chipman is one of the youngest surviving soldiers of the Civil War. He is 79 and will attain his 80th birthday next October.

CHOATE
ABBOTT

Cooper Union Address

TELL HOW LINCOLN TALKED IN COOPER UNION IN 1860.

Standing on Identical Spot Where War President Stood, Choate and Abbott Recall Scene to Hearers.

FROWNING AUDIENCE YIELDED TO HIS HONESTY.

New York Was Dominated by Rich Southern Cotton Ring —Tablet Unveiled.

Practically all of New York City paid tribute yesterday and last night to the memory of Abraham Lincoln in the celebration of the centenary of his birth. Forts Wadsworth and Hamilton and Schuyler and Governor's Island began the day with the thunder of salutes and the land batteries of the National Guard joined simultaneously in the observance. A quarter of a million school children participated in patriotic exercises in 361 public schools.

The central point in historic significance, about which all the others revolved, was in Cooper Union at 2 o'clock in the afternoon on the very spot where Lincoln spoke forty-nine years ago, to a sullen, hostile and suspicious audience, when New York, controlled by the powerful cotton ring of the South, was howering between loyalty to the Union and subservience to the money interests, dominated by a Wall street clique. The portrayal of this situation was limned in graphic phrase by Joseph H. Choate and the Rev. Lyman Abbott, the sole surviving participants of distinction, on the occasion when the unassailable logic and probity of Lincoln turned the tide.

Responsive Audience.

Cooper Union never housed a more patriotic, a more appreciative or a more responsive audience. It was typically American in its instant recognition of the points made by the speakers. The hall was packed to the doors, but so earnest was the attention that the lowest spoken syllable was heard even to the entrances. There was only one suggestion of a discordant note, and that came when Alexander Law, who calls himself "the Secretary of the unemployed," attempted to introduce a set of resolutions.

He got as far as the "whereas" when his voice was drowned by the mighty volume of a chorus sung by the German Liederkranz.

Mayor McClellan presided. A marble tablet set in the middle column of the masonry, and which is to remain as long as Cooper Union stands, was unveiled as the Mayor finished his speech. It was presented by the Woman's Republican Club of New York, and its place is within four feet of where Lincoln stood when he made his memorable speech on Feb. 27, 1860.

The tablet is of white marble on a background of black marble, Colonial design, with pilasters and frieze. In letters of gold appears the extract from the address which is indicative of the character of the man whose memory it commemorated:

> Let us have faith that right makes might, and in that faith, let us do our duty as we understand it.

There was a temporary embarrassment as two women wearing hats with flaring brims became entangled in the bunting that draped the slab and disclosed the inscription ahead of time, but the flags were replaced quickly and the official unveiling was performed by Bishop David H. Greer, who presented the tablet to Cooper Union. C. R. Richards, a director, accepted it on behalf of the trustees. He was followed by Joseph H. Choate, who said in part:

Choate's Address.

"Just forty-nine years ago in this month of February and in this very spot, I first saw Abraham Lincoln, and heard him deliver that thrilling address which led to his nomination in Chicago and his subsequent triumphant election to the Presidency. He had come to New York to make an address, as he supposed, in Plymouth Church, but through some misunderstanding he was brought to Cooper Union. Here were assembled the great men of his party.

"When he was presented by William Cullen Bryant, the vast sea of faces were upturned to see what manner of man this tall, gaunt figure, with illy fitting clothes, was. He became transformed. His eye kindled. He presented his argument, shorn of rhetoric or ornament, with irresistible force, proving the power of the Federal Government to exclude slavery from the free States. His closing was an appeal to his audience, with a full outpouring of his soul, and the next day the City of New York was ringing with applause."

Lyman Abbott Recalls Scene.

"It was my pleasure," said the Rev. Lyman Abbott, "to be present on that occasion, and I remember that Mr. Lincoln stood on this very spot before an audience that was not enthusiastic, but cold, critical, suspicious and hostile. The pulpit of that day was either silent or apologetic. Cotton was king. New York controlled the cotton market of the South, which was dependent upon negro labor.

"New York was for compromise. New York was unwilling to take a stand against the maintenance of slavery or its extension, and it was into this atmosphere that Abraham Lincoln came. He was for the right and he carried the day."

CONGER

ABRAHAM LINCOLN WAS A HERO TO HIS "VALET-COACHMAN"

JOSEPH CHRISTIAN, coachman and occasionally barber to Abraham Lincoln, has been found and prevailed upon to tell what he knew of the Great Emancipator. His story, as written down by Test Dalton and E. Albert Apple for *McClure's*, is the plain, unvarnished tale of an humble servant who loved his master and cared faithfully for his master's horses and his master's whiskers.

He first met Lincoln in the days of the debates with Douglas, when the future coachman was a very small boy, the youngest registered jockey in the United States. That small boy had the honor of driving six horses, hitched to the only available vehicle, a circus band-wagon through the heavy Iowa mud from Lyons to Clinton. He was too young then, he confesses, to have formed any impression of Lincoln. All he could think of was that he was driving a circus band-wagon.

Later he became a jockey for a Springfield, Illinois, horseman, and every day, when he was taking his horse to the track for exercise, he saw Lincoln, who lived nearby, and exchanged greetings with him. Then, after a time, he drifted to Galveston, Texas, working as a cattleman, and, tiring of that, went to Fort Carney with a view to enlisting in the Army.

"Robert E. Lee was then in the United States Army. This was just before the war broke out. Lee was a lieutenant-colonel in the Second U. S. Dragoons. I went to Lee, but he couldn't enlist me because I was under the legal age. However, he kept me as his bugler, telling me I could quit whenever I wanted to. . . .

"When I was his bugler they fed and clothed me, but couldn't put me on the payroll. So one day while I was shaving him, Lee told me I could take his razor and shave the boys in the company, to pick up all the money I could in place of a salary. The razor was his father's father's and had come down in the family. It was made in Sheffield in 1694. This razor I kept. Afterward it was my most cherished possession, for with it I shaved Lincoln."

Finally he was enlisted, one of the youngest soldiers to carry a gun in the United States Army, and he served five years, part of the time doing active service on the Northern side. Before the war ended he was discharged in Washington, D. C.

Christian walked the streets of the capital for five days, and eventually determined to "brace" the President for the job of coachman. He was told to come back the next day and Lincoln would see what he could do.

Christian was hired as their personal coachman. He left three times during his seventeen months of White House service—for reasons which he does not specify—but the first two times he came back. And the third time also he came back—to drive the hearse that bore the body of Lincoln through the streets of Washington.

The most exciting driving he ever did for Lincoln followed the shelling of Fairfax Court House when Lincoln and Stanton had a secret engagement over in Virginia. With four horses instead of the usual two they started early in the morning, unescorted, for the sake of quiet and secrecy.

When they started back, about a mile and a half out from Fairfax Court House they reached a cross-road which cut at right angles into the main road they were using. And down that cross-road, a quarter of a mile away, they saw a troop of cavalry riding toward them with speed. It was Confederate cavalry in gray coats, as the good eyes of John, the footman, verified.

"My heart leaped into my mouth, for two miles of bad roads lay between us and Falls Church where there were about forty thousand Union soldiers encamped.

"Never, when I was a jockey, did I handle a horse as carefully as I did those four on that long ride for the life of President Lincoln. . . .

"We galloped for a mile before we reached Falls Church. . . . I never let the horses slow down until we drove up in front of headquarters. . . .

"Lincoln was not excited a bit. Nothing ever seemed to startle him out of his calm."

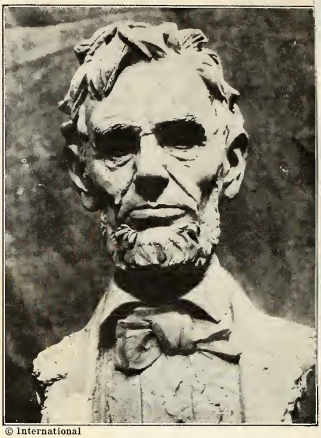
A day came when Lincoln had an appointment at one of the Washington hotels, and the barber had failed to come to shave him. Christian drove around to the front door, went up to Lincoln's room to tell him he was ready, and learned that the barber was missing. He offered his services and the services of Robert E. Lee's razor, and obtained a regular job, shaving Lincoln's cheeks, upper lip and under lip about three times a week.

About a month before Lincoln was assassinated, Christian once more determined to leave his service. The President shook hands with him and wished him success. The coachman-valet looked back as he slowly closed the door.

"He was watching me and smiling. . . . That was the last time I ever saw Abraham Lincoln alive. He had a kind smile on his face, and I sure hated to leave him."

Thereafter he worked in a Washington barber shop and then in the Barnum House, Baltimore, and among other prominent persons whom he shaved frequently there was John Wilkes Booth. He talked to Booth, accepted a drink from him in the Barnum House in Baltimore only a few hours before Booth assassinated Lincoln.

Starting to work the next morning, he found crowds in the streets and men weeping like children. He was stunned by the news of the assassination. As he stood in a crowd on a street corner a man remarked, "Well, it's a good thing Lincoln was shot!" Whereat another man tapped him on the shoulder and shot him through the head. Policemen came up, the second man confessed the killing, and added, "I have five more shots for any other men who say they're glad Lincoln was shot." The policemen simply walked away.



© International

NEW BUST OF LINCOLN FOR LONDON HOTEL

"Tay Pay" O'Connor, grandfather of the British Parliament, celebrated his 75th birthday by unveiling this bust in the Lincoln room of the Hotel Savoy.

John Price, the undertaker who had charge of Lincoln's funeral, telegraphed Christian to come on to Washington and drive the hearse.

"That was the biggest thing I ever did in my whole life—driving Lincoln's hearse, and I'd crawl to Washington on my hands and knees to-morrow if he was there waiting for me. There wasn't anybody like him in the whole world. He was just Abraham Lincoln—everybody's friend."

Current Opinion
Feb. 1924

Church, Benjamin

Assassination

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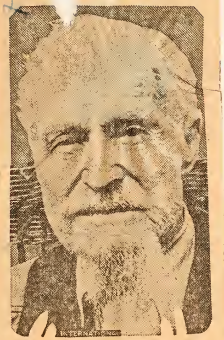

Benjamin Church of Lisbon, N. Y., despite his ninety-seven years, remembers with startling clarity the scene in Ford's theater in Washington on the evening of President Abraham Lincoln's assassination, April 14, 1865. Church, a young naval official, was seated opposite the "Great Emancipator" and saw Booth shoot him.

Church, Benjamin

Assassination

ONLY MAN ALIVE WHO SAW LINCOLN SLAIN NEAR CENTURY MARK

OGDENSBURG, N. Y., Sept. 5.—(I. N.S.)—Preparations are being made in the village of Lisbon to honor Benjamin Church, who will observe his one hundredth birthday anniversary Sept. 26. He is believed to be the only man living who witnessed the shooting of Abraham Lincoln on April 14, 1865.

Springfield, Ill.

Clark, George

Boston, Mass.

President Lincoln's Humble Friend

A writer in the Boston Journal relates the following anecdote illustrative of Abraham Lincoln's simplicity and nobility of nature: George Clark, an eccentric man in humble circumstances, was an early friend of Lincoln, who subsequently removed to New England. He met Lincoln in Boston during a stumping tour in the east. A few years passed and Mr. Lincoln was the man of the hour. Clark, whenever I met him was talking about him. "I can have any office I want," he said emphatically; "Abe will look out for me." I thought him a dreamer and, like all his acquaintances, doubted his claim. Shortly after, Clark said he was going to have an office, and that in order to get it he must have $12 to pay his fare to Washington. I told him it was a useless undertaking. He laughed at me. "Abe wouldn't refuse him anything he asked. He had made up his mind he must have a postoffice. I told him that $12 would only pay his fare, and that everything was so high and the hotels so crowded that he couldn't live twenty-four hours in Washington. Again he laughed in my face and then said: "What do I care for high prices and hotels? Abe'll take care of me. All I want is money enough to get there."

Half in ernest half in jest, the money was raised and Clark went to Washington.

A reception was taking place at the white house and a man of his plebeian appearance was not only "out of place' but was hustled about in an unceremonius manner and in one way or another deterred from approaching Mr. Lincoln. Clark's patience served him for more than an hour, when hunger and anxiety about to place a "put up for the night" caused him to lose his discretion and become desperate. Mounting a chair just as a foreign minister was approaching Mr. Lincoln, he sang out "Abe! Abe!" Mr. Lincoln instantly recognized the speaker. The passing pageant of chivalry and fashion became to his mind like the unreality of a dream from which he had been suddenly aroused, and in all the brilliant assembly he saw only George Clark, the man who had shared with him the hardships and privations of frontier life in the days of small things.

"Make way for my friend!" exclaimed the president, and the surprised ladies and gentlemen paused in astonishment as Mr. Clark approched Lincoln and was received with a cordiality and warmth of greeting that had not been accorded any other guest of the evening.

A few minutes later Mr. Lincoln excused himself from the reception and passed into another room with his old friend and closed the door. The scene that followed is known only through Mr. Clark, and, as he was inclined to somewhat exaggerate circumstances, must be considered with some grains of allowance.

Mr. Lincoln, so Clark repeatedly told his friends, was as familiar and off-hand as in their youth. He leaned against the wall and laughed. He was like an overjoyed boy. "You don't know how glad I am to see you," he said. The face of an old friend is like a ray of sunshine through dark and ominous clouds. I've shook hands till I am tireder than I ever was splitting rails." He inquired where Clark was stopping and if he had been to supper, and when Clark told him that he was "stopping" with Abe Lincoln and did not have anything of any account to eat since leaving home, he ordered the best the white house afforded set before him while he returned to "finish up the business he had in hand."

Finally he told Mr. Lincoln the object of his visit and solicited the Lawrence postmastership. Mr. Lincoln laughed at him, and said: "You ain't quite up in education George, to take that kind of a job. But I've fixed you all snug, all right. Take this letter." The letter was addressed: "To the Collector of the port of Boston." Clark presented himself at the custom house one morning, and upon being snubbed by one and another when he inquired for the Collector, remarked that he had a letter from his friend Lincoln, addressed to the gentlman for whom he had inquired. This opened the doors and the letter said, in substance: "The bearer is my friend, George Clark. Give him the best position he can fill. If he fails in one place, give him another." The Collector settled him as watchman on board vessels in the harbor—a berth in which he could sleep as much as he liked—at $1,200 a year.—June 11, 1885.

J WRIGHT

Springfield, Ill.

Clark, Prof. Thomas

Chicago, March, 27, 1933.
6912 North Ashland Blvd.

Dear Dr. Warren:

I have been receiving the "Lincoln Lore" sheets, for which I sincerely thank you.

I have read a few of the Lincoln Biographies and am reading everything I can get hold of. I now finish up the book by Dr. Wm. A. Evans, "Mrs. Abraham Lincoln" and am finding much worthy information, not only about Mrs. Lincoln but also about our Martyred President. I was at one time associated with the late Benjamin Chapin in his "Lincoln Episodes" pictures.

Along about 1859, my old teacher, Professor Thomas Clark-formerly teacher of Latin, Greek and Mathematics- located in in Sangamon County (having resigned from Eton College in England) opened an Academy in Springfield, Ill., and Abraham Lincoln became hia Lawyer; the Lincoln children attended Prof. Clarks Accademy, so he told me.

Prof. Clark told me that Mr. Lincoln was not making much money, and that on one occasion, employed him to do a little legal work, for which the Professor gave him $5.00. On receipt of this money, Mr. Lincoln exclaimed, "Now, Children, we can go to the Circus" Professor Clark told me many interresting things about Mr. Lincoln, as his friend and Attorney while residing in Springfield. Many years later Professor Clark married and located in Chicago, where I took lessone from him in the German language.

Professor Thomas Clakr, was a native of Amah Ireland, was graduated from the Dublin University and was a teacher in Eton College, near London. He was about 82 years of age when I became a pupil of his, and was conversant with some eight or nine foreign languages and was studying Sanscrit when I knew him; he died in 1885 and is burried here in Graceland Cemetary.

Thinking you might be interrested in this item, I take the liberty of sending it to you and if I can give you any further information I will be very glad. I would suggest that you come in touch with Captain John H. Cummings, the only living Sharp Shooter of the Civil War period and a special Messenger from Army Headquarters to President Lincoln, he lives at 707 Hinman Avenue, Evanston, Ills. The Captain served President Lincoln as Messenger for a long period during the Civil War, and could give you much information about Lincoln.

Thanking you again, I am

Yours very truly,

Chas. B. Gibson

Clark, William A.

Knew Lincoln Intimately, Says Local Centenarian

William A. Clark Celebrates 100th Birthday; Tells of Emancipator's Pranks.

One hundred years ago yesterday—at half past three in the morning—the stork and a Springfield, Ill., doctor had a race. The stork won. When the village doctor arrived a baby was crying lustily. Mr. and Mrs. Oremel Clark named their new son, William A., and yesterday that son celebrated his century birthday at his home, 4171 Ingalls street.

As a boy and a young man on his father's farm near Springfield, Mr. Clark knew Abraham Lincoln very well, and yesterday when a Union reporter spent an hour with him, he recalled many interesting events in the life of Lincoln. Mr. Clark has a clear mind, but his eyesight has been gone for six years. He keeps posted on current events and wants to know "What's going on down town" every day when the daily papers come. If a big building permit is announced on Broadway or some other location, he wants to know all about it. In his mind he has a picture of Broadway and other thoroughfares. Mr. Clark boasts of a good appetite and tells how well he sleeps.

PREDICTS PRESIDENCY

"Yes, I used to see Abe Lincoln every day," said the personal friend and neighbor of the martyred president. "And after I came to California—in 1883—I wrote a letter to my father and predicted that Lincoln would be elected president. 'I believe that Abe is going to be the next president,' were the exact words I wrote in the letter to father.

"Father, in answering the letter, said that he read my predictions to Lincoln, and his comment to father was, 'I guess the boy is right.'

"At Springfield, Abe Lincoln was a lawyer and a storekeeper at Salem, only six miles from Springfield. Everybody had great respect for Lincoln. Oh, yes, I heard a good deal about Abe's love affairs, but I do not wish to talk about folks after they have been dead for many years. There always was town gossip, you know, when young people had serious cases

William A. Clark

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(Continued on Page 3)

KNEW LINCOLN INTIMATELY, SAYS LOCAL CENTENARIAN

(Continued from Page 1)

of love like Abe had at Salem. So they talked about Abe and Mary Todd when he courted her."

Mr. Clark told a story yesterday about a duel challenge that was flung at Lincoln by a lawyer named Shields after Abe laughed in Shields' face because a young woman objected to having her hand squeezed by the courting lawyer.

IS CHALLENGED

"My father was at a party one night when the affair happened," said Mr. Clark. "Lawyer Shields and Julia Jayne were seated together at the supper table. Across the table from them sat Abe and Mary Todd. By and by the lawyer squeezed Julia's hand. In those days, you know, a pin was a woman's weapon. Julia used it when Shields squeezed her hand. And that made him scream, because she stuck that pin right into his hand.

"Lincoln, who was a laughing fellow, haw-hawed right out loud, much to the embarrassment of Shields. Well, to make a long story short, Shields issued a duel challenge to Abe. Lincoln sought the advice of friends on what he should do. He consulted my father, Bill Butler, Dr. Merriam and others. Lincoln was not a quitter, although he said he did not know anything about dueling.

"There was a place near St. Louis they called 'Bloody Island,' and it was there that several duels with pistols were fought. I reckon Abe would have gone through with the duel, but Shields changed his mind. At least they said that he put up a job and had St. Louis police stop the impending battle with pistols before a shot was fired."

One of the humorous stories Mr. Clark related yesterday was what he called the "silver spoon" case in which Abe Lincoln was the attorney for a man who was being tried for stealing spoons.

"In those days," he said, "lawyers went about the country with some law books, a good deal like circuit riders did. They traveled on horseback. At a town in the northern part of the state, a man was to be tried for stealing several spoons from a table where he had enjoyed the hospitality of new friends. Silverware then was prized highly by families.

"The silver spoon case was called. The accused man did not have a lawyer. He was asked to choose one, and he picked young Abe. After several witnesses were examined court adjourned until the next morning. At the trial it was shown that the strongest evidence against the man was that spoons had been found in his pocket.

DISMISSES CASE

"The next morning when the case was resumed the prosecuting attorney asked for conviction on the grounds that the missing spoons had been found in the fellow's pocket. The courtroom was shocked when the judge promptly dismissed the case and set the fellow free. The judge gave as his reasons for throwing the case out, that he, that very morning, had found some silver spoons in his own pocket. I could not prove that Abe put the spoons in the judge's pocket at the boarding house, but it was talk that he did it for a joke. Anyway, when the judge discovered the spoons, he dropped the case."

Mr. Clark left Illinois in '53 with a group of men who brought 500 head of cattle to Salt Lake City. From there he, with three or four others, rode pack mules to "Hangtown," Calif. This place later was named Placerville.

"I came to San Diego with that boom, and I want to tell you, mister, she was a great landslide, too," said Mr. Clark. "When I meet a fellow and ask him what's going on down town and he says 'I don't know,' I tell him he ought to be ashamed of himself, having good eyes to see and read and then don't know what's going on in San Diego."

OLDEST MASON HERE

Mr. Clark was made a Master Mason in '62, at Redwood, Calif. "I was a charter member of the Masonic lodge there. They say I am the oldest Mason in southern California.. I don't like to claim much of anything for myself, but I have seen quite a bit in the 100 years I have lived."

Yesterday morning Mr. Clark was looking forward to meeting his two children, and later in the day they arrived. They are Mrs. J. W. Hurd of Bakersfield and George Clark of San Francisco.

There were many telephone calls from members of the San Diego Braille club for the blind, who sent him felicitations on his 100th birthday. Several Masons called during the day and brought the century celebrator ice cream and flowers.

Mrs. Cora M. Grayson, at whose home Mr. Clark lives, said: "He is one of the most remarkable persons I ever saw." Mrs. Grayson is a trained nurse. "He enjoys his meals and sleeps about 15 hours in every 24. He is never gloomy. He loves to talk to callers and sometimes I have to cut short the visits of friends when I notice that he is getting tired."

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ON THE BENCH

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BLAKESLEE

Clark, Wm. G.

Salem Standard and Jerseyman

June 4th, 1931.

"UNCLE BILLY" CLARK

William G. Clark, one of Salem's oldest residents and a man who had the honor of shaking hands with President Lincoln, passed away at his home on Third street on Saturday, from complications due to old age. He was in his eighty-eighth year.

The funeral services were held on Tuesday with interment at the Baptist Cemetery.

"Uncle Billy" Clark, as he was known to all his friends, was born at Salem, February 3d, 1843. His parents were George and Elizabeth F. Clark, who moved to Hancock's Bridge when he was a year old. His father was a blacksmith, and the son took to the forge and anvil when quite young as an apprentice under Richard Fox, at Hancock's Bridge, the father of former Sheriff A. Lincoln Fox. He also worked with his father at Tuckahoe.

While employed by Charles Armstrong, a blacksmith at Sharptown, a gun barrel that he was heating in the forge exploded, tearing away a portion of his hand, and the scar he carried to his death. It is said that 126 No. 6 shot were picked from the wound.

In 1863, Mr. Clark went to Washington, D. C. and for two years was engaged at his trade in shoeing horses used in government work, and it was while there that he had the pleasure of shaking hands twice with President Lincoln.

After the war "Uncle Billy" returned to Salem and worked on the river boats and engaged in shad fishing in the spring. One of the boats on which he was employed was "Favorite", an excursion steamer that ran to Augustine Pier and for thirteen years was a mate on the "Thomas Clyde", running to Woodland Beach. Forty-nine springs, he said, he fished for shad and always thought that no other vocation ever gave a man's constitution such a test. Sails and "armstrong power" were used in those days, for power boats had not come into use.

His fishing mates in turn were Thomas Baker, Charles Baker, Dalymore Harris, William Fennimore, of Lower Alloways Creek; Isaac Stanton, William Tunden and his son, Charles Clark. He fished twenty-seven springs with Tunden. When his son, Charles, died in 1921, his enthusiasm for fishing passed and he never went out since. For several years he had been employed by the Freeholders of Salem county to supervise the dumping of rubbish to widen the Lower Penn's Neck Causeway.

Mr. Clark married Emma J. Cobb, August 17th, 1872. They had one son, Charles, who died in 921. Mrs. Clark passed away December 30th, 1930.

"Uncle Billy" was a member of the Union Fire Company having joined after the big fire in Salem, January 2d, 1878, and was active for a number of years.

He joined Forrest Lodge, No. 7, Knights of Pythias in August, 1877, and had been a guard on the lodge for over a quarter of a century, taking the place made vacant by the death of the late Horatio Packard.

There survives a sister, Mrs. Fennimore and a cousin, Mary E. Harris, of Hancock's Bridge.

DIED

CLARK—At Salem, N. J., May 30th, 1931, William G. Clark, aged 88 years.

Clark, Wm. G.
Smalley, Edwin

Z 5-31

"Twins" in Birth Dates Only

WILLIAM G. CLARK EDWIN SMALLEY

"Congratulations on your eighty-eighth birthday Smalley", said the veteran captain. "The same to you, and may your shadow never grow less", replied Smalley. These two Salem veterans have been pals for many years, and although they were born the same day and year, they are not related. The picture shows them congratulating each other on their eighty-eighth birthday which occurred last Tuesday.

SHOOK HANDS WITH PRESIDENT LINCOLN

William G. Clark and Edwin Smalley, Friends For Several Years Celebrated Birthdays Tuesday

Shook Hands With President Lincoln

"In 1863 I went down to Washington, D. C., and for two years was engaged in blacksmith work, generally shoeing horses used in government work", said Mr. Clark. "And there I had the pleasure of shaking hands with President Lincoln on two different occasions. Once during a reception to the general public at the White House I had an opportunity to study the President as he met the people. I was impressed with the sad look on his face when in repose. As the general throng passed by he shook hands with each one rather mechanically, but as a mother with smiling baby passed and the emancipator greeted them, his face lighted up with a smile that made him look like another man. Of course, I didn't think much about the incident at the time, for Lincoln seemed just like any other President that had preceded him, in fact when it was announced that a public reception was to be held I was undecided about forming in the line, but later on when he was assassinated and the great deeds that he had accomplished became known to the public, I was glad that I had taken advantage of the opportunity. As I look back on the many incidents that have happened during my rather uneventful life, the vision shaking hands with President Lincoln gives me about the greatest thrill, for he was the first President that I voted for and I have voted for every President since.

"Lincoln's second inauguration was to be a grand event. His supporters planned to show that a solid north was in favor of his election as President. My work came under the Quartermaster's Department and every man was to have a holiday and join the immense parade. Over a thousand men in the Quartermaster's department were supplied with uniforms. Early morning broke with a bad rain storm that continued all day. I don't think I ever saw a worse storm. The men stood around awaiting the word to start, but late in the afternoon, plans for the parade were abondoned. Other Lowercreekers working in the Quartermaster's Department were George Sheppard, William Sheppard, Edward Davis, Albert Davis, Josiah Davis and David Moore.

"Accompanied by David Moore, I was passing the White House one day when we noticed an unusual crowd and we joined them. Looking up the walk we saw President Lincoln walk down the steps to his carriage. He was carrying several books, like law books and as he entered the carriage, his son, who was on the front seat helped him place the books and he stepped out, assisted him into the carriage and took the back seat and they drove off.

"This all seems like a dream to me now, but the picture of the martyred President is as clear in my mind as if it had happened yesterday. These little incidents so common place at the time were all reviewed later on when word was received that the President had been shot at Ford's Theatre, April 14, 1865. This happened after I had returned to Salem and there was some excitement at that time.

CLARK, WILL O.
STEBBINS, E. J.

Illinois-- Geneseo Hotel man Pcitures Lincoln as Ideal Guest

LINCOLN PICTURED AS IDEAL HOTEL GUEST

Never Fussed About Service, Says Will O. Clark, 84, Here for Convention.

Chicago Daily News 2-12-26

Abraham Lincoln was pictured as an ideal hotel guest by Will O. Clark, 84-year-old retired hotel man of Geneseo, Ill., who, is here to attend the twenty-fifth annual convention of the Illinois Hotel association, which opened its two-day session to-day at the Hotel LaSalle.

According to Mr. Clark, who is president emeritus of the association, Lincoln's plain and simple habits never changed when he was away from home and staying at a hotel. He was vastly different in this respect from the average person of to-day, who, the minute he pens his name on a hotel register, begins to call for service spelled with a capital S. Mr. Clark said.

"And I know," he added, "because as a bellboy at the age of 12 and later as a clerk in my father's hotels, I tended to or rather was ready to supply any of his wants.

Met Lincoln in Rock Island.

"The first time I ever saw Mr. Lincoln was at Rock Island in 1856. He came there as an attorney to defend a suit of the Chicago-Rock Island railroad brought against it by the Mississippi Navigation company for impeding navigation by building the first bridge across the Mississippi river.

"While there Mr. Lincoln was a guest at the Island City hotel, owned by my father, John S. Clark. I was the bellboy and often conversed with Lincoln and listened to his stories.

"The next time I met Lincoln was at Charleston, Ill., in 1861. He was a guest of my father at the Charleston house, where I worked as the clerk. He came there after his election and previous to his inauguration to say farewell to his relatives and friends.

Was Not Fussy About Food.

"In those days hotel guests took a drink of water if they wanted it before they went up to their rooms and never would have dreamed of demanding to have a pitcher of it sent to them. I remember Lincoln never was fussy about his food, but ate the simple fare of the time with apparently great enjoyment."

Mr. Clark paid a tribute to Lincoln when he addressed the meeting in response to the address of welcome delivered by J. A. Blatchford, secretary of the Chicago Hotel association.

Mr. Clark exchanged reminiscences

Final Clearance

A final reduction. It is good economy to buy these coats now for next winter.

Lincoln's Secretary Dead

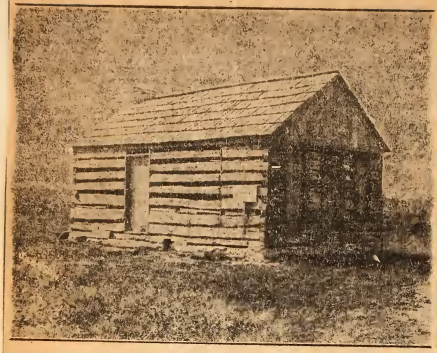
MADISON, N. J., August 31 (A.P.)—William O. Stoddard, age ninety, once private secretary to Abraham Lincoln, is dead at his home here. Mr. Stoddard, a veteran of the newspaper profession, had been in good health until recently. He was the first journalist to mention Lincoln for the presidency in 1859, and in 1860 he became the latter's secretary, a post which he held for four years.

CALLS LINCOLN IDEAL HOTEL GUEST

E. J. STEBBINS AND WILL O. CLARK, 84-YEAR-OLD RETIRED HOTEL MAN OF GENESEO, ILL., WHO RECALLS ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S VISITS TO MR. CLARK'S FATHER'S HOTELS.

[By a staff photographer of The Daily News.]

ONSTOTT COOPER SHOP



The Onstott Cooper shop, only original building of Old Salem still standing. It was removed from Old Salem to Petersburg, and then taken back to the Illinois State park later. It is said to be the only building of Old Salem existing in the original state.

Have you been at Old Salem Park? It's Lovely

Springfield address, February 12, 1861: "My Friends—No one not in my position can appreciate the sadness I feel at this parting. To this people I owe all that I am. Here I have lived more than a quarter of a century; here my children were born, and here one of them lies buried. I know not how soon I shall see you again. A duty devolves upon me which is, perhaps, greater than that which has devolved upon any other man since the days of Washington. He never would have succeeded except for the aid of Divine Providence, upon which he at all times relied. I feel that I can not succeed without the same divine aid which sustained him, and on the same Almighty Being I place my reliance for support, and I hope you, my friends, will all pray that I may receive that divine assistance without which I can not succeed, but with which success is certain. Again, I bid you an affectionate farewell."

Well Lincoln Drank From Still Is Used

Champaign, Ill., Man Recalls Visit In Presidential Campaign.

Champaign, Ill., Nov. 13 (AP)—Memories of Abraham Lincoln slaking his thirst at a Champaign well one hot day in 1860 are treasured by G. W. Colvin. The well is still in operation.

Lincoln, arriving in Champaign during his campaign for the Presidency, stopped at what was then known as the Houston Hotel. Colvin says he was a "little tike, nigh onto three feet and a half," when he saw Lincoln come striding out of the hotel to the rear of the plot of ground where the well was located. Etched unforgettably on his youthful mind was the picture of the tall figure.

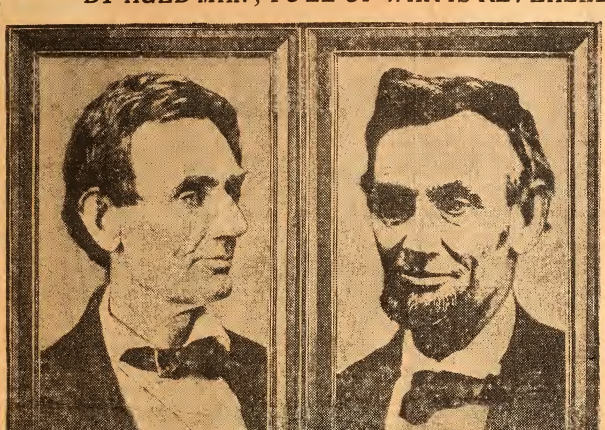
"He was a slim kind of a country jake, full of fun and always ready with a sharp answer."

Lincoln walked across the ground, Colvin continued, with his trousers tucked into the tall boots he wore. The water was used for both humans and cattle, a pulley and two oaken buckets being used to draw it up. Colvin says he piped up to Lincoln: "The water is in the cow yard, but it is good," and the answer came back: "I don't care. I eat cows."

The hotel has been converted into a house and moved to another site, but the two rooms where Lincoln lodged have been kept inviolate.

Clarke, William

LINCOLN, THE COUNTRY LAWYER, RECALLED BY AGED MAN; TOLL OF WAR IS REVEALED



Dr. Louis A. Warren, Lincoln scholar of Fort Wayne, Ind., describes the above pictures of Abraham Lincoln as "the story of the civil war in pictures." On the left is one of the most celebrated portraits of the emancipator. It was made in 1860 and depicts Lincoln just before he entered the White House. The picture on the right was made in 1865, a few days before he was assassinated. Just five years elapsed between the two sittings. The effect of the responsibilities of president during the trying days of the civil war are plainly shown.

Emancipator's Description of Self in Dictionary of Congress Calls Education 'Defective.'

By WILLIAM WARNE

SAN DIEGO, Cal., Feb. 12—(AP)—William A. Clarke, who passed his 103rd birthday here Jan. 4, remembers Abraham Lincoln as a rustic lawyer.

As a clerk in Jacob Bunn's grocery store in Springfield, Ill., 80 years ago, Clarke heard many of the now famous jokes Abe cracked while whittling beside the stove on cold winter nights.

KNEW HIM WELL

"I knew Abe Lincoln well," Clarke said, "and I knew Mary Todd, his wife, when she was a girl."

Clarke, now blind and feeble, likes to talk about the old days in Springfield.

"Abe Lincoln and the other lawyers used to ride from city to city on the court circuit, and I mind one story he told a bunch of us at the store one night.

"Abe was defending a young feller charged with stealing some silver spoons.

SPOKE NEXT DAY

"Lincoln and the judge were staying at the same house, and the case was not completed in the afternoon. The next day Abe made the speech for the defense.

"'This is a serious charge to bring against a man for taking a silver spoon or two,' Abe said he began. 'Most of us have found silver spoons in our pockets at some time.' The judge reached into his pocket, looking hard at Abe, and pulled out a silver spoon belonging to the family they had stayed with the night before. 'And he laid it on me,' Lincoln said.

"There was a girl in Springfield named Julia Jayne, and Lawyer

A MESSAGE FROM LINCOLN

"Let no feeling of discouragement prey upon you, and in the end you are sure to succeed . . .

"The machinery of the nation is out of order. We must run it as we find it. Its intelligent wheels, its rods, its belts are separated, but the boiler seems to be perfect. We must repair the work with such skill and ingenuity as we possess . . .

"To many the present moment appears dark. To me the signs are all glorious . . ."

Lincoln

AP

Shields squeezed her hand too hard one night at a party. Julia pulled out her pin and jabbed Shields. Abe Lincoln cracked a lot of jokes on Shields as a result of it, and Shields challenged him to a duel.

"Abe said he couldn't shoot a pistol, and he chose to fight with swords. Lincoln and Shields went to Bloody Island in the Mississippi river near St. Louis. Abe cut such capers with the sword, cutting the tops off weeds and hacking twigs that Shields got cold feet and had the St. Louis police stop the duel."

Clarke has a letter he wrote to his father in 1854 after he came to California in which he told the elder Clarke, "I think Abe Lincoln will be president some day."

HIS DESCRIPTION

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12—(AP)—Here is how Abraham Lincoln rated himself in 1858 in Lanham's Dictionary of Congress:

"Born February 12, 1809, in Hardin County, Ky.

"Education, defective.

"Profession, a lawyer.

"Have been a captain of Volunteers in the Black Hawk war.

"Postmaster at a very small office.

"Four times a member of the Illinois legislature, and was a member of the lower house of Congress.

"If any personal description of me is thought desirable, it may be said I am in height 6 feet four inches, nearly; lean in flesh, weighing on an average 180 pounds; dark complexion with coarse black hair and gray eyes. No other marks or brands recollected.

SETTLES QUESTION

"It seems as if the question whether my first name is 'Abraham' or 'Abram' will never be settled. It is 'Abraham' * * *."

These are some of the favorite hymns of Lincoln:

"Am I a Soldier of the Cross?"

"There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood."

Clay, Mary Ann

Springfield, Ill.
grand neice of Henry Clay

THE SAN DIEGO SUN: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1926

LINCOLN IDEAL OF HIS PEOPLE

FEB 12 1926

Clay's Grandniece Recalls Friendship of Abe

PRESIDENT HAD RADIANT SMILE

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla., Feb. 12.—More precious than riches are the memories which an Oklahoma City woman cherishes of her friendship with Abraham Lincoln and his family. Miss Mary Ann Clay is 89 years old and her mind is as vigorously alert as it was back in the days of Lincoln.

She is a grandniece of the illustrious Henry Clay, and is better known here are "Aunt Mary."

Of a long line of newspaper people, she set type and was a news reporter on papers in St. Louis, New Orleans, Petersburg, Ill., Springfield, Ill., and Chicago; she has the distinction of being the first woman assistant proof reader in the country.

TELLS OF FRIENDSHIP

Her brother, Henry Louis Clay, a reporter when 17, always accompanied Lincoln on his campaign trips to take his speeches for his paper, the Springfield Journal. Lincoln loved him as a son.

With eyes aglow, "Aunt Mary" told of her close friendship with Lincoln.

"It seems only yesterday when in my girlhood, I would see Mr. Lincoln with his market basket under his arm striding along on his way to the market. Completely lost in thought, his face would be set in the deepest scowl, when in glancing up he would by chance meet a friend, and instantly his expression would change into the most radiant smile imaginable! 'Lightning change,' his friends used to call it," she declared. "'The homeliest handsome man!' and 'the handsomest homely man!' many of the people affectionately called him."

Although Miss Clay and her brother attended the same church as did Lincoln, it was a rare

MISS MARY ANN CLAY

thing for them to occupy their own pew. Lincoln always insisted that they sit with him and his family. "Aunt Mary," who is small of stature, invariably sat next to Lincoln.

"My brother was a great tease and he often said it reminded him of a rooster looking down a whisky jug to see Mr. Lincoln, who was so extremely tall and lanky, looking down on his prayerbook, which he held low for me to read!" "Aunt Mary" said with a smile.

LINCOLN WAS NERVOUS

So long were Lincoln's legs that they protruded high above the seat in church, "Aunt Mary" declared. "Mr. Lincoln, who was very nervous, would shake his knees up and down, thereby shaking the benches. A friend once remarked, he shook the benches then, but later he was destined to shake the nation!

"Mrs. Lincoln was very democratic. Often I have been in the corner drug store when Mrs. Lincoln, getting caught in a downpour, would seek refuge in the drug store. Seeing the drayman pass, she would hail him: 'Oh, Mr. Hart, back up your dray and take me home!' she would call. Getting on the dray, she would steady herself with one arm around the driver while the other held the umbrella over them both!"

WAS THEIR IDEAL

Miss Clay was in her day one of the most popular young ladies of the society set. Innumerable times she was chosen to lead the cotillion with Stephen A. Douglas, the Democratic candidate for president. At the ball given in his honor in Springfield, Aunt Mary recalled, she, with Douglas were on the spacious lawn when the trumpet sounded, announcing supper. As she and Douglas approached the veranda, a mighty shout went up: "Hurrah for Douglas and Clay!"

"Everyone called Mr. Lincoln 'Abe' in those days. He was closer to the hearts of the people than any other man since his generation. He was their ideal," Miss Clay said.

Clay, Mrs. Mary Ann.

SHE KNEW LINCOLN

Grandniece of Henry Clay Recalls Her Reporter Brother "Wrote Up" Abe.

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DEMOCRAT, HE VOTED FOR MR. LINCOLN, REPUBLICAN, AND SERVED IN HIS ARMY

BY V. Y. DALLMAN

From the pen and lips of the late Hon. Henry W. Clendenin, who became co-publisher of the Illinois State Register with Senator Thomas Rees 50 years ago, comes the true story of Abraham Lincoln.

Mr. Clendenin, who passed to his reward July 18, 1927, wrote some of his impressions of Abraham Lincoln in his autobiography which was published in 1926, but much that he said to this writer about Lincoln was never incorporated in the autobiography.

Mr. Clendenin was always aroused to dignified resentment whenever critics abused Mr. Lincoln or when statements were attributed to Lincoln which Mr. Clendenin knew had never been uttered by the Emancipator. Had he been alive when Edgar Lee Masters' recent slander of Lincoln was broadcast, he would have met Masters' statements with positive refutation based upon his personal contact with and his broad knowledge of Lincoln.

There is the element of the sublime in Mr. Clendenin's devotion to Abraham Lincoln. He was an ardent democrat while Lincoln was a potent factor in republican politics and was elected to the presidency as a republican. Mr. Clendenin after having given his support to Stephen A. Douglas for United States senator in 1858 became so convinced of Lincoln's statesmanship and humanitarian opposition to slavery, that he cast his first presidential vote for Lincoln, republican, in 1860.

This is indeed an interesting and extraordinary picture—Mr. Clendenin, democrat, yielding to his convictions against slavery turning his back upon political expediency and voting for Lincoln.

Then, when the call to arms came, Mr. Clendenin offered himself for service in the Union army under the stars and stripes with Abraham Lincoln as his commander-in-chief.

How Douglas Aided Lincoln

It was with deep emotion that Mr. Clendenin frequently recited the details of this dramatic chapter of his life to his intimate friends. "Lincoln," said he, "was not elected by republican votes alone, because there were not enough of them. He would never have been canonized by his party, had not Douglas, democrat, come to his support in order to defeat Breckenridge, the democratic opponent of Douglas and the pride of the slavery aristocracy."

Into the heart of Mr. Clendenin as a sincere patriot came his first deep conviction of Lincoln's sincerity when he heard him speak in Peoria in 1858.

Later he heard him in Independence Hall in Philadelphia when Lincoln's inauguration as president was drawing nigh.

"It is unnecessary," he said, "to say that I was [illegible] utterances and the ominous approach of war so filled the heart of Mr. Clendenin with deep human emotion that he went to his room and in lonely solitude wrote an ode to Lincoln, the theme of which was that under the leadership of Lincoln's "giant mind" a free people would walk the way their fathers had trod and that Lincoln would ultimately be hailed as the second Washington—one the father of his country, the other its savior. He wrote in part:

A Poetic Prayer

Hark to the sound that speedeth o'er
the land!
Behold the sword in fratricidal hand!
'Tis duty calls thee, Lincoln, and thy
trust
Demands that all thy acts be wise
and just.
No idle task to thee has been assigned,
But work that's worthy of a giant
mind—
And on the issue hangs the nation's
fame
As a free people who deserve the
name.
So, walk thou in the way thy fathers
trod;
Be true to freedom, country, and to
God;
Then truth will triumph, treason be
undone,
And thou be hailed the second Washington.
The first, the Father of his country—
thou
Its Savior. Bind the laurel on thy
brow.

Bear in mind that this graphic picture of Lincoln and a nation shrouded in dark clouds of war was painted by one who was well known in Springfield in recent years—a democrat who not only listened to but voted for and enlisted in the Union army under Lincoln. Later he wrote of the martyr's assassination and of the dramatic history that followed, all of which conveys a

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"It is unnecessary," he said, "to say that I was one of the throng that gathered there at the raising of the Star-Spangled Banner at sunrise over Independence Hall in Washington Square. Being supple, I worked my way to the front and obtained a place within a dozen feet of the speaker's platform. Mr. Lincoln seemed taller and more angular to me as he stepped forward on the platform in Independence Hall. He had changed only in one respect. His face bore the aspect of a man who was a born leader of the people. He did not change a feature of his homely face as the thousands standing before him broke the silence with cheers and surged toward him."

Some Dramatic Moments

Springfield and Central Illinois knew Henry W. Clendenin intimately. They recognized his fine idealism, his intense patriotism, his keen mentality and the sincerity of his Christianity. That his heart was filled with such an abiding faith in Abraham Lincoln, indicates the profound impression which was made upon him by the character and statesmanship of Lincoln.

Mr. Clendenin fairly poured his heart into his autobiography as he pictured the scene presented after Lincoln had raised the Stars and Stripes in Philadelphia and had said: "I would rather be assassinated now and here than see that flag lowered by hands defiled with brothers' blood and delivered in submission to unpatriotic citizens."

The magnificence of Lincoln's statesmanship, the solemnity of his personality, the sweet sincerity of his utterances and the ominous approach of war so filled the heart of Mr. Clendenin with deep human emotion that he went to his room and in lonely solitude wrote an ode to Lincoln, the theme of which was that under the leadership of Lincoln's "giant mind" a free people would walk the way their fathers had trod and that Lincoln would ultimately be hailed as the second Washington—one the father of his country, the other its savior. He wrote in part:

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An Appeal For Honor

It should inspire a deeper devotion to the ideals which governed Lincoln and which prompted the veteran editor here quoted to paint Lincoln in his true light and to set an example in that form of patriotism which can only be expressed and typified in terms of service and sacrifice.

Let us take special heed of the following words written by Mr. Clendenin in 1926 when recounting the story of the assassination of Lincoln:

"I have pored over the pages of time in an effort to learn all this lesson teaches. The name of this martyr has been dragged into partisan politics for the vilest purposes and has been made the slogan for political bandits to ply their trade. Surely there are worthier objectives to which his name and fame could be devoted and which would make the republic and the world better."

This story, though briefly told, is an index to the character of a man who, for nearly half a century, guided the editorial destinies of The State Register, always finding in Senator Rees a sustaining force and patriotic power in maintenance of the principles which inspired Mr. Clendenin's editorial idealism.

And what a privilege it has been for those of us on the staff to have enjoyed association with such idealistic journalists as Senator Rees and his late partner—Mr. Clendenin.

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Reminiscences